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# Sustainable development: protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

## Report of the Second Committee*

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## I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 52 (see A/60/488, para. 2). Action on sub-item (d) was taken at the 27th and 37th meetings, on 10 November and 15 December 2005. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/60/SR.27 and 37).

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in nine parts, under the symbol A/60/488 and Add.1-8.

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## II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/60/L.23 and Rev.1

2. At the 27th meeting, on 10 November, the representative of Jamaica, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced and orally corrected a draft resolution entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind" (A/C.2/60/L.23), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolution 54/222 of 22 December 1999, its decision 55/443 of 20 December 2000 and its resolutions 56/199 of 21 December 2001, 57/257 of 20 December 2002, 58/243 of 23 December 2003 and 59/234 of 20 December 2004 and other resolutions relating to the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of mankind,

"*Recalling also* the provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, including the acknowledgement that the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation by all countries and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response, in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and their social and economic conditions,

"*Recalling further* the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ('Johannesburg Plan of Implementation'), the Delhi Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change and Sustainable Development, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its eighth session, held in New Delhi from 23 October to 1 November 2002, the outcome of the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties held in Milan, Italy, from 1 to 12 December 2003, and the outcome of the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties, held in Buenos Aires, from 7 to 17 December 2004,

"*Recalling* the development section of the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

"*Reaffirming* the Mauritius Declaration and the Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States ('The Mauritius Strategy for Implementation'), which, inter alia, recognizes that the adverse effects of climate change and sea level rise present significant risks to the sustainable development of small island developing States, and the long-term effects of climate change may threaten the very existence of some small island developing States,

"*Remaining deeply concerned* that all countries, in particular developing countries, including the least developed countries and small island developing States, face increased risks from the negative impacts of climate change,

"*Noting* that one hundred and eighty-nine States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified the Convention,

"*Noting also* that, to date, the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change has attracted one hundred and fifty-six ratifications, including from parties mentioned in annex I to the Convention, which account for 61.6 per cent of emissions,

"*Noting further* the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the need to build and enhance scientific and technological capabilities, inter alia, through continuing support to the Panel for the exchange of scientific data and information, especially in developing countries,

"*Recalling* the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in which Heads of State and Government resolved to make every effort to ensure the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol, preferably by the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 2002, and to embark on the required reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases,

"*Taking note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the work of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention,

"1. *Calls upon* States to work cooperatively towards achieving the ultimate objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

"2. *Welcomes* the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, on 16 February 2005;

"3. *Notes* that States that have ratified the Kyoto Protocol strongly urge States that have not yet done so to ratify it in a timely manner;

"4. *Notes with interest* the preparations undertaken on the flexible mechanisms established by the Kyoto Protocol, in particular the clean development mechanism, and calls for their successful implementation;

"5. *Takes note* of the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth session, and calls for their implementation, in particular decision 1/CP.10, entitled 'Buenos Aires programme of work on adaptation and response measures';

"6. *Urges* the international community to continue to assist developing countries, in particular small island developing States, least developed countries and African countries, including those that are particularly vulnerable to climate change, in addressing their adaptation needs relating to adverse effects of climate change;

"7. *Notes* the importance of the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol to be held in Montreal, Canada, from 28 November to 9 December 2005;

"8. *Also notes* the ongoing work of the liaison group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or

Desertification, Particularly in Africa and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and encourages cooperation to promote complementarities among the three secretariats while respecting their independent legal status;

"9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make provisions for the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its subsidiary bodies in his proposal for the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007;

"10. *Invites* the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session on the work of the Conference of the Parties;

"11. *Invites* the conferences of the parties to the multilateral environmental conventions, when setting the dates of their meetings, to take into consideration the schedule of meetings of the General Assembly and the Commission on Sustainable Development so as to ensure the adequate representation of developing countries at those meetings;

"12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-first session the sub-item entitled 'Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind'."

3. At its 37th meeting, on 15 December, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind" (A/C.2/60/L.23/Rev.1), submitted by Jamaica on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

4. At the same meeting, the representative of Jamaica, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, orally corrected operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution (see A/C.2/60/SR.37).

5. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

6. Also at the same meeting, the Committee retained operative paragraph 7 of the draft resolution by a recorded vote of 158 to 3, with 2 abstentions. The voting was as follows:[1]

*In favour:*

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras,

[1] Subsequently, the representative of the Niger stated that, had he been present, he would have voted in favour of operative paragraph 7; and the representative of Somalia stated that he had intended to vote in favour of the paragraph.

Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Against*:

Japan, Somalia, United States of America.

*Abstaining*:

Israel, Kazakhstan.

7. Statements in explanation of vote were made before the vote by the representatives of the United States of America and Japan; a statement in explanation of vote was made after the vote by the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union) (see A/C.2/60/SR.37).

8. Also at its 37th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.23/Rev.1, as a whole (see para. 10).

9. After the adoption of the draft resolution as a whole, a statement was made by the representative of the United States of America (see A/C.2/60/SR.37).

*Remaining deeply concerned* that all countries, in particular developing countries, including the least developed countries and small island developing States, face increased risks from the negative effects of climate change, and stressing the need to address adaptation needs relating to such effects,

*Noting* that one hundred and eighty-nine States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified the Convention,

*Noting also* that, to date, the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[10] has attracted one hundred and fifty-six ratifications, including from parties mentioned in annex I to the Convention, which account for 61.6 per cent of emissions,

*Noting further* the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the need to build and enhance scientific and technological capabilities, inter alia, through continuing support to the Panel for the exchange of scientific data and information, especially in developing countries,

*Recalling* the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[11] in which Heads of State and Government resolved to make every effort to ensure the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol and to embark on the required reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases,[12]

*Reaffirming* its commitment to the ultimate objective of the Convention, namely, to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that prevents dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system,

*Taking note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the work of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention,[13]

1. *Calls upon* States to work cooperatively towards achieving the ultimate objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;[1]

2. *Notes* that States that have ratified the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[10] welcome the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol on 16 February 2005 and strongly urge States that have not yet done so to ratify it in a timely manner;

3. *Notes with interest* the activities undertaken under the flexible mechanisms established by the Kyoto Protocol;

4. *Takes note* of the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth session,[6] and calls for their implementation;

5. *Notes* the importance of the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, held in Montreal, Canada, from 28 November to 9 December 2005;

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[10] FCCC/CP/1997/7/Add.1, decision 1/CP.3, annex.

[11] See resolution 55/2.

[12] Ibid., para. 23.

[13] A/60/171, sect. I.

6. *Also notes* the ongoing work of the liaison group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa[14] and the Convention on Biological Diversity,[15] and encourages cooperation to promote complementarities among the three secretariats while respecting their independent legal status;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make provisions for the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its subsidiary bodies in his proposal for the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007;

8. *Invites* the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session on the work of the Conference of the Parties;

9. *Invites* the conferences of the parties to the multilateral environmental conventions, when setting the dates of their meetings, to take into consideration the schedule of meetings of the General Assembly and the Commission on Sustainable Development so as to ensure the adequate representation of developing countries at those meetings;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-first session the sub-item entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind".

[14] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

[15] Ibid., vol. 1760, No. 30619.